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## First 198 Get Dismissal Notice

# CIA Begins a Purge of 'Spy' Division

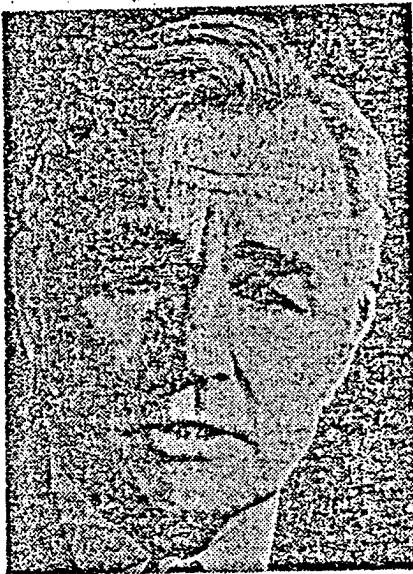
By Richard Harwood  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Central Intelligence Agency Director Stansfield Turner has begun a major purge of the agency's clandestine service—the operations section.

He has notified CIA employees that 198 members of the clandestine service were given notice on Nov. 1 that their jobs would be terminated on March 31 next year. He has also notified employees that on June 1 of next year jobs of an additional 700 clandestine operators will be terminated effective on Dec. 31, 1979.

These terminations will cut deeply into the top ranks of the clandestine division and will include an undisclosed number of station chiefs around the world. Many of the dismissed employees will be officials who are alumni of the old Office of Strategic Services, which was formed in World War II under Gen. William Donovan and was the predecessor of the present CIA.

The clandestine service is run by the agency's deputy director for operations, William W. Wells. Its principal function is the collection of intelligence information. It consists of 4,000 CIA officers and 4,000 support personnel.



STANSFIELD TURNER

... top ranks to be affected

The cutbacks, announced in letters to the 198 individuals affected and not formally rationalized, reportedly are being made for reasons of "economy." But there is also a belief within the

agency that technology is a factor. In recent years, the CIA has relied increasingly on technical devices for the collection of information, including satellites and electronic intercepts. The role of the "human" collectors of information—popularly known as "spies"—has diminished.

It is these "spies" who would be the target of the Turner personnel cuts—"human" collectors made obsolete by technology.

The clandestine employees selected for termination were reportedly chosen on the basis of a point system that rates their efficiency and value. They were to be chosen, employees were told, from the lowest 5 per cent of each grade. But one source said that many of the people dismissed by Turner came from the top 5 per cent of the agency's employees.

Morale has suffered at headquarters in McLean. Although the first 198 to be dismissed have been notified, the next 700 have not. They are waiting for the shoe to drop.

Also, some disgruntled employees wonder whether economy and technology are the only factors in Turner's decision. They think the former admiral may intend to bring in more people of his own.